MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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DIARY OF THE WAR

29th Nov.—Following the arrival of fresh Italian troops, the resistance of Duce's forces is now noticeably stiffening. The Italians appear to be fighting well so long as the battle is restricted to artillery, rifle or machine-gun fire, but panicy at the sight of the bayonet. In the centre sector of the Italo-Greek front, Greek troops using the bayonet are repelling the counter-attacks by Italians who have received reinforcements. The Italians are abandoning one position after another. General Soddu, the Italian Commander-in-Chief in Albania, has been promoted to the rank of an Army General. British bombers have carried out raids on Santa Quaranta, an Italian embarkation port on the Albanian coast. Durazzo and Elbasan have also been attacked by British aircraft. Attacks on Italian strongholds by the Fleet Air Arm under the cover of the Mediterranean Fleet were carried out simultaneously on Port Laki in Leros in the Dodecanese and on Tripoli in Libya.

A dissident group of Iron-Guardists attempted to attack the headquarters of the Iron Guards movement in Bucharest. They fired a machine-gun from a motor car, killing or wounding several legionaries. Many incidents are also reported from the provinces, involving not only dissident Iron Guards but also the population.

Queen Helen of Rumania, mother of King Michael, arrived in Rome and later left for Florence.

Free French Forces under General de Gaulle now have 35,000 trained troops under arms, 20 warships in service, 1,000 airmen, 160 merchantmen at sea and numerous technicians working in armaments factories in full activity in Africa, French India and the Pacific and increased financial resources, newspapers and radio stations.

A train carrying Japanese and Japanese-dominated Chinese officials from Shanghai to Nanking was blown up just outside Soochow and it is reported that a hundred persons were killed and injured. Chinese guerilla fighters are believed to be responsible. The officials were *en route* to Nanking for the signature of the treaty between Japan and the Nanking puppet regime.

The districts round San Sebastian in North-western Spain receive daily visits from parties of German frontier troops in lorries. These soldiers arrive from France as tourists and tour first of all the big markets in the main towns, then the smaller markets, provision merchants and even farms, buying up stocks of food. They are mainly after vegetables and fish together with any coffee that they can lay their hands on. They also buy up rationed meats and fats, also sewing cotton and threads, the French stocks of which are now exhausted.

The raid on London was the heaviest for some time. In one area in the Home Counties it is feared that there were many casualties. Losses: Enemy 5, British 2, but both pilots are safe.

Royal Air Force bombers attacked objectives at Bremen and Cologne as well as enemy aerodromes and invasion ports. His Majesty the King spent a night at a Royal Air Force bomber station where he saw Wellingtons, loaded with bombs, take off and later saw machines land after having successfully dropped their bombs on Cologne and Boulogne.

The targets at Bremen included ship-building yards of Deutsche-Schieff and Maschinenbau which construct most of the types of German naval vessels. At Cologne, the British air-craft concentrated on the great inland port. The Coastal Command Blenheims attacked enemy-occupied naval position at L'Orient.

Enemy ships were contacted in the English Channel and were hit repeatedly by the British ships. The enemy ships scattered and withdrew at a high speed towards the French coast in darkness. The British destroyer *Javelin* was disabled but is safely in port.

A series of attacks by relays of German bombers on the partially disabled British destroyer *Javelin* were fought off by patrols of the Royal Air Force fighters for several hours. Three German bombers were shot down and one damaged.

30th Nov.—Greeks assault units crossed the Cherava river following a strong offensive against Italian positions and penetrated into the Pogradetz valley. Italians are hastily withdrawing and the Greeks are reported to have captured Kamuja mountain. Italian counter-attacks between Leskovik and Kolonia have been repulsed.

An Italian submarine has been sunk by a Greek destroyer.

Germany has annexed Lorraine from France.

Buercke, Gauleiter in Saarbrucken, declares that the deportation of the French population in Lorraine is necessary in order to clarify, once for all, the position on Germany's future western frontier so that a war will never again be waged on its account. Only Germans should live where German frontiers extend. The return of Lorraine to the Reich marks the completion of a chapter of history in which ancient German land has been freed and a political wrong righted. The century old struggle for the Rhine has now been concluded. Lorraine and the Saar will be consolidated economically and politically and in accordance with Hitler's wishes they will be known in future as Westmarck.

Japan has recognized Wang Ching Wei's Japanese-controlled Government at Nanking as the "National Government of the Republic of China."

In the Kassala sector a Greek mechanised patrol successfully ambushed a body of the enemy, inflicting heavy casualties.

Considerable damage to shops, houses and other buildings and a number of fires resulted from German air raids on one South Coast town. A number of people were killed and others injured. In the London area bombs were dropped at three points injuring a few people but doing little damage. Southampton experienced its worst raid of the war, when a rain of incendiary bombs followed by high explosives did much damage to churches, houses and shops. Several casualties amongst civilians are reported. The brunt of the raid was borne by civilians and not by military objectives. Losses: Enemy 5, British 2, but both pilots are safe.

President Roosevelt announced granting the Chinese Government in Chungking credit of a hundred million dollars.

The Fascist Party is accusing the Italian Army of incompetence in the conduct of the Greek campaign. The harsh criticism has evoked such deep resentment in the military ranks that there is talk of denouncing the Fascist Party.

Bomber operations over Germany have been cancelled owing to adverse weather conditions.

1st Dec.—Pogradetz, the strategic Albanian town, has been taken after fighting on a large scale.

Over a thousand Italian prisoners were reported to have been taken by the Greeks on the southern front sector reaching to the Adriatic coast. British Air Force is co-operating effectively. They successfully bombed a road in South-West Albania which was being used by the Italians to bring up reinforcements.

An offensive patrol of British motor torpedo boats attacked and damaged a large German supply ship of the Dutch coast.

Enemy air activity over England is small. Losses: Enemy 8, British 5. All pilots safe.

Italian troops retreating along the Elbasan road in the eastern sector on the Albanian front are now reported to be caught between two fires. They are being energetically pursued by the Greeks while, facing them, well-armed and organized bands of Albanians are said to be awaiting them in the vicinity of Elbasan.

Royal Air Force attacked a power station, jetty and dry docks at Brest. At Christiansand bombs fell among barrack buildings at a military camp. Explosions followed the bombing of Esnejerg gas works. British bombers attacked naval ship-building yards at Wilhelmshaven.

M. Dardaud, the special delegate of General de Gaulle, arrived in Pondicherry. He has been sent to India with a view to studying the condition of Frenchmen in India, following the recent declaration of His Excellency M. Louis Bonvin, the Governor of French India, to rally round the Government of General de Gaulle.

2nd Dec.—The speed of the Greek advance is slowed down by heavy snow and violent gale; nevertheless they retain the initiative and a new line has been established in the extreme north. The Italians are retreating on a sixty-mile front right across Albania from the sea to the shores of Lake Ochrida. In the eastern sector Greek troops are pursuing the enemy beyond Pogradetz.

"Instruction troops" now in Rumania parade before King Michael and General Antonescu to celebrate Rumania's adhesion to the Three Power Pact.

Air Raids over England: Slight activity. Losses: Enemy 2, British nil.

Serious disturbances are reported to have occurred in Norway following an attempt on the life of Major Quisling, head of Germany's puppet Government.

Two British steamers have been attacked by a submarine west of Ireland. Two other ships have also been torpedoed west of Ireland.

Steamers "Victor Ross", "Loch Ranza" were torpedoed. "Kilgerran" (276 tons) was bombed by enemy air craft.

Marshal Petain is transferring his seat of Government to Versailles in German-occupied territory.

3rd Dec.—Fort Adi Urgi in Italian East Africa is raided by the Royal Air Force and considerable damage done to a motor transport column and Italian personnel. Zila also attacked.

Coastal Command aircraft attack shipping off Norwegian coast. One ship sustains a direct hit. A large explosion and fire follow the bombing of a ship at Feje island. Bomber Command aircraft attack the submarine base at L'Orient.

Royal Air Force raid Naples. Large fire started in oil refineries. Hits registered on main railway line. Two aerodromes of Sicily and one at Augusta also attacked.

Greek army is within a mile and a quarter of Santi Quaranta. Italians in the Argyrocastro sector of the front are reported to be retreating even more quickly than they did at Koritza. Greeks have captured village heights dominating Premeti, a small town of strategic importance in the centre sector. British bomber planes harass the enemy in the rear. Valona port, whither the Italians retreating would naturally withdraw, has been heavily bombed by Royal Air Force. The Italian Army is again retreating after making a stand north of Pogradetz on the shores of Lake Ochrida. Further west, a vigorous Italian counter-attack has been smashed with great success. Mussolini's legions in Northern Albania are retreating from the source of the Skumbi river towards Elbasan.

Drastic measures are being taken to curb the activities of the Iron Guard, one of them being the dissolution of the Iron Guard police.

Air raids over England. Birmingham has been attacked on a fairly heavy scale. London has had a night entirely free from raiders.

Britain is spending £12,876,000 daily on the war.

The need for keeping Bulgaria out of the war has been stressed in the Bulgarian Parliament by the Foreign Minister. The Minister stated that the return of Dobrudja had improved relations with Rumania and the recognition of Bulgarian rights had also contributed towards friendly relations with the U.S.S.R.

Since June 22, 155 persons have been killed and 425 injured in air raids over Egypt. Egypt has protested to Italy against Italian air raids on Egypt's populated areas.

A small force of Royal Air Force bombers bombed railway communications in Rhineland. Royal Air Force also attacked a blast furnace plant at Essen while other formations bombed Dunkirk.

A crushing defeat involving over 20,000 casualties was inflicted on the Japanese troops in Northern Hupeh province in Central China last week.

4th Dec.—Greeks have occupied new heights in the Pogradetz sector. Some prisoners, arms, mortars and three guns have been taken.

Rumania Iron Guards are being disarmed. The assassins of former Premier M. Jogra are reported to have been executed.

Air activity over England is very slight. Some bombs were dropped on Dover. One enemy bomber shot down over the Dutch coast by British fighters.

A ten year agreement between Germany and Rumania providing for "economic reconstruction" of Rumania has been signed in Berlin.

R.A.F. bombers make a sustained attack on various objectives in the Dusseldorf area. Another force bomb selected targets at Turin. Other targets include ports of Antwerp, Calais and several enemy aerodromes, searchlights and anti-aircraft gun positions. The Mannesmann Rohrenweke armament works, railway yards in Derndorf district, quays and dockyards along the Rhine and Dusseldorf coal and gas plants are the main objectives of the R.A.F. raids.

5th Dec.—Greeks capture Premeti and take over 500 prisoners, six cannon and abundant material. They have also occupied the very important strategic mountain group of Frasheri, north and north-east of Premeti. Italian troops retreat in the Tepelini-Kercyre sector.

R.A.F. bombers bomb a road junction and troops concentrations at Kercyre. Off the coast at Santi Quaranta British bombers attack an enemy destroyer scoring two direct hits.

Air raids over England. Formations of Messer-Schmidts cross the south-east coast of England, but Spitfires chase and disperse them. Losses: German 15, British 2; but one pilot is safe. In the evening British and German long-range guns fight a violent artillery duel across the straits of Dover.

Copies of the *Gazette De Lausanne*, containing a full informal account of last week's naval battle in the Mediterranean, have been banned from entry into Italy.

British fighters are, it is reported, now mounted with cannon guns which have a longer range and greater damaging power than machine-guns.

A dispatch from Bucharest says that Rumania's daily oil production has fallen from 1,700 to 1,400 wagons.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 26th November 1940 :—

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
November 20, Wednesday.	R. A. F. night raid on Duisburg-Ruhrort (inland port, shipping, warehouses, railway yards); invasion bases at Ostend and Dunkirk; naval base at Cherbourg; submarine base at L'Orient; aerodromes.	1	..
November 21, Thursday.	Night bombing operations cancelled owing to weather ..	..	..
November 22, Friday.	R.A.F. day raid on aerodromes at Stavenger. R. A. F. night raid on aerodrome at Marignac, near Bordeaux.	..	..
November 23, Saturday.	R. A. F. day raids on Schipol aerodrome (Holland); factory at Solingen and other industrial targets in the Ruhr; wireless station at Vikero (Norway). R. A. F. night raids on Berlin (Pullitzerstrasse, Lehrter, Potsdamer, Anhalter railway stations and yards); Turin (Fiat air-craft works, Royal Arsenal); railway stations and yards at Leipzig and Dortmund; inland port of Duisberg-Ruhrort; Krupp arms works at Essen; factories at Kastrop-Rauzel; docks at Boulogne; power station at Brest; submarine base at L'Orient; aerodrome.	2	..
November 24, Sunday.	R. A. F. day attacks on aerodrome at Christiansand (Norway); harbours at Hook of Holland and Boulogne. R. A. F. night raids on Hamburg (shipyards, industrial plant, Altona gas works); harbour A.A. batteries and searchlights at Boulogne and Den Helder; dockyards at Wilhelmshaven; chemical factory at Hamburg-Wilhelmsburg; aerodromes.	1	...
November 25, Monday.	R. A. F. night raids on naval bases at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven docks at Hamburg; seaplane base at Willemsoord (Holland) aerodrome.	1	..
November 26, Tuesday.	R. A. F. night raids on Cologne (arms factory, other targets); railway yards in Berlin; Royal Arsenal at Turin; oil dumps at Ghent; invasion bases at Rotterdam, Flushing, Antwerp, Calais and Boulogne; submarine base at L'Orient; aerodromes.	5	..

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 26th November 1940 :—

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
November 20	Nil.	5
November 21	Nil.	2
November 22	Nil.	2
November 23	Nil.	11
November 24	..	6
November 25	..	..
November 26	Nil.	4

RUBBER FOR JAPAN

The endeavour of Japan to monopolize the whole Indo-Chinese rubber output shows the increasing difficulties into which her pro-Axis policy is leading her. Japan produces no rubber at all, and imported in 1938 crude rubber worth 51,374 thousand yen. She imported rubber chiefly from Malaya which, with the Dutch East Indies, produces more than two-thirds of the total world rubber production. Indo-Chinese production amounted to 60,000 tons in 1938, or about 6·5 per cent only of world production. The United States, which also has no rubber and is therefore a very heavy importer, used to take much of Indo-China's rubber. The Japanese seizure of the Indo-China crop will therefore increase her difficulties with the United States, and also American dependence upon British Malaya and the Dutch East Indies, for rubber supplies. 96·5 per cent of the world's rubber is produced in the East Indies, Ceylon, Burma and India. Rubber is a vital article of war industry, and this region is therefore likely to assume greater importance in future. Rubber is also manufactured synthetically, but it is not a satisfactory substitute for natural rubber.

AERIAL "BALANCE SHEET"

The air losses in raids over Great Britain are three or four German to one British. An officer of the Royal Air Force has arrived at a "Balance sheet" for one of the squadrons engaged in a battle with German aircrafts of various designs. We are indebted to a Bombay paper for the following figures:—

Twenty-six hurricanes at £5,000 each cost £130,000. Supposing this squadron brings down 10 Messerschmitt 109s. at £5,000 each, 27-1/3 Messerschmitt 110s. at £10,000 each, 1 Junker 87 at £10,000, 6½ Junkers 88 at £15,000 each, 4 Dornier 17s. at £15,000 each, 18 Heinkel 111s. at £25,000 each, and 1 Heinkel 113 at £10,000 each, it will mean a loss of £950,833 to Germany leaving a credit balance of £820,833 in favour of Great Britain.

HUNGARY AND THE AXIS

The Hungarian communique issued immediately after Hungary joined the Axis and Japan concluded as follows:—

"True to her unbroken and unchanged foreign policy in the past . . . . and full of confidence in the future, Hungary joins the Tripartite Agreement".

The following old folk-song has been unearthed because it is relevant at the present time:—

"O Magyar, think no German true,
No matter how he flatter you;
For though his promises invoke
A letter bigger than your cloak,
And though he add (the big poltroon)
A seal to match the harvest moon,
You may be sure he means not well—
May Heaven blast his soul to hell!"

TALKING POINTS

UNITED STATES AND FINANCIAL AID TO GREAT BRITAIN

Reactions in America to the recent statement made by Lord Lothian regarding war expenditure in Great Britain and the necessity for strengthening her financial position *vis a vis* the United States, where the bulk of war orders is placed, have been favourable. At present, as is well-known, British purchases are being paid for before delivery. Last Tuesday saw an important conference of prominent officials of the United States Administration representing the Treasury, the War Office, the Army, Navy and Defence, presumably to discuss this and other pressing problems. One of the proposals said to have been put forward is a loan of over £600 million on the security of the gold production of the British Commonwealth of Nations over the next five years. Mr. Jesse Jones, Federal Loan Administrator, is reported to have said on Wednesday last that the British Government was 'a good risk' and that he ordinarily favoured "loans to good risks when they need them for a proper purpose", a view with which, Mr. Morganthan, Secretary of the Treasury, has since stated he agreed. And Mr. Henry Ford, who is not over-friendly to Great Britain, has, it is significant, expressed himself in favour of giving Britain all the money she needed! A British Treasury official in the person of Sir Frederick Phillips who, on reaching New York said that Britain's financial position was 'never stronger', will place before the responsible authorities in America the present position regarding the purchasing situation and an idea of what it is and what it may be may be gathered from the fact that Britain has now placed in United States contracts to the value of 2,500 million dollars and this is expected to increase to 4,000 million dollars (about £1,000 millions) next year.

What exactly Lord Lothian meant by his reference to British financial resources may be understood from a B.B.C. broadcast by Mr. Donald Tynman on the 28th November. It should be noted that this refers to *cash* resources only and that the deficiency is caused by the operation of the American Neutrality Act. It can be overcome by the repeal of this Act. The Act was first passed in 1935 and was renewed in 1937. The supply of arms to belligerent countries was forbidden and other supplies were only allowed on a cash-and-carry basis. President Roosevelt urged the repeal of the arms embargo under the Act in 1939. In October 1939, after the war had broken out, Congress allowed the sale of arms on a cash-and-carry basis, that is, that the purchaser should not only pay cash for his goods, but carry them away in his own ships. Under the present Act, America can neither give credits to Britain, nor send her merchant ships to any other country.

Mr. Tynman said—"All Lord Lothian did was to call attention to certain facts which have been well-known for a long time. In peace time, when you trade with all countries, you get what is called an import surplus. This was specially big in trade with the United States, that is, we buy more goods than we sell and we have to pay for the balance in other ways, by carrying other countries goods in our ships, by doing banking and insurance business for them, by using the interest and dividends on our foreign investments, and by shipping gold or by actually selling foreign securities to get foreign currencies to pay with.

"Now, in war time, this import surplus must inevitably grow, for we have to import goods and materials not only to feed and clothe ourselves with, but also to defend ourselves with and to equip our fighting forces with. As you know, we are making vast purchases of aircraft and war materials in the United States, the material aid that the people of America have decided to give us. In the first nine months of this year, the import surplus, including all our trade, not just American, and including Empire countries, was actually at the rate of £670 million in the whole year, something like twice what it was before the war. Canada's surplus in trade with the United States alone is also about twice what it was.

"At the same time, our ways of paying are very much more restricted. Our ships we must have for our own use, our income from banking and insurance business has inevitably gone sharply down. If we want more foreign currencies to pay for more imports, then we must either export more and so cut down this import surplus, or sell our gold and our foreign securities. In spite of the calls of the war industries upon labour and materials, we are keeping up our exports remarkably well, but still the gap between what we have to buy and what we can sell is very big indeed. For the balance then we have to look to our war chest, our gold and our securities."

THE SHIPPING POSITION

The increased activity of the *Luftwaffe* and German submarines, especially in the Atlantic, November 24–25, 1940, represented 75,560 to the desire to subdue Britain following the ignominious failure to invade her. The shipping position is, of course, serious, but it is improving. The losses for the week ending November 24–25, 1940, represented 75,560 tons British and 12,415 tons Allied; the losses for four weeks ended November 24 amounted to 323,157 tons, British and Allied. It is interesting to compare this figure with 881,000 tons lost in the worst month of the last War, April 1917, by Britain and the Allies. That the menace is being overcome rapidly is clear.

1. British shipping losses up to November 10 amounted to 2,367,869 tons and additions by construction, purchase and capture very nearly made up this loss. The enemy, during this period, lost 1,537,810 tons, a proportion which is much bigger when the total enemy tonnage is taken into consideration.

2. Up to November 1, 1940, British, Allied and neutral losses amounted to 3,809,208 tons, but as against this loss, one has got to remember that the Allies have, as the result of the addition of substantial parts of the Allied Merchant fleet, greatly increased the total tonnage available. For instance, Norway has contributed in this way $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 million tons, Netherlands over 2 million tons, Greece $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons and Poland and Belgium together $\frac{1}{2}$ million tons.

3. It has been announced that Great Britain has placed an order for 60 cargo ships with U.S. firms. A few freighters which are ready for delivery are being taken over. Canada is building 18 merchant vessels for the British Government. Australia is preparing new shipyards for ship-building. In this connection, it is pertinent to note that 'The New York Times' recently advocated the pooling of the 11 million-ton U.S.A. Mercantile Marine with the British for the purpose of relieving the latter from the Indian and Pacific Oceans for Atlantic service.

4. Germane to the discussion of the subject is the fact that so little of substantial loss has been incurred in carrying the goods from U.S.A. to Great Britain. An American export firm stated recently that it had a turnover of 80,000 sterling since April without one item being lost at sea. Another stated that it has lost less than 250 yards of piecegoods out of a total of a quarter of a million exported. A third has been sending goods over to Great Britain every week since the outbreak of the war and has lost only one-twentieth of one per cent of its goods by enemy action—an appropriate reply to the German boast of its successful blockade of Great Britain!

A TALE OF TWO NEUTRALS.

THIS PICTURE

The case of Rumania and that of Greece offer material for serious thought. Both of them tried their very best to keep out of the fray. But the day France fell saw also Rumania's nerve trouble, with the result that she repudiated the British guarantee and protested her devotion to the Axis Powers. Greece, on the other hand, neither denounced the British guarantee nor gave offence to the Axis Powers, but she has been invaded by Italy. Rumania has lost much of her territory to Hungary, Russia and Bulgaria. Her King, King Carol, has taken refuge in another country and many of his trusted followers are either in prison or in exile or have been executed. Rumania has now to spend £30,000 a day for maintaining the German army of occupation. Ex-Premier General Antonescu and the Ex-Minister for Public Security M. Marinesco, together with 62 others, were shot on November 27 by Iron Guards. It is almost certain that this foul deed was done at the instigation of Germany. The condition of Rumania at present is pitiable. Germany has imposed a ten-year agreement on her, as a result of which she would have to sell agricultural products and oil and take manufactured articles in return for improving her lines of communication at prices dictated by Germany.

A few measures have been taken to curb the activities of Iron Guards and a ban placed on the wearing of the green uniform. Prime Minister Antonescu has even gone the length of making a funeral oration when the victims of Iron Guards were buried, deploring the present situation. Both the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister have expressed their bitter resentment at the loss of Transylvannian territory, but Rumania now stands in the position of a victim throttled by the neck by the robber.

The following points in regard to Iron Guards will be read with interest:—

The climax of the Iron Guard's terrorism in the last few days in the culmination of a long period of political gangsterdom. The Iron Guard was founded in 1925 as the "Soldiers of the Archangel Michael." It gradually gained influence from the time of the great economic depression. In January 1934, it was responsible for the murder of Premier Duca, who had taken strong measures against it. Its growth precipitated the crisis which made parliamentary government unworkable from December 1937 when it succeeded in preventing the Liberal M. Tatarescu from obtaining the 40 per cent votes of a general election necessary for a two-thirds majority in Parliament under the law of 1926. Actually, he only obtained 38·5 per cent with the result that there was no stable Parliamentary majority. After a brief trial had been given to the rival "National Christian Front" of Cogo and Cuza, King Carol suspended the constitution, appointed the Patriarch of Rumania, Mgr. Christea, Prime Minister and announced a dictatorship on his own account. The Goco faction was as violent and dictatorial as the Iron Guard, but less pro-German. The King's coup was opposed by M. Manin, the peasant leader, but the real opposition came from the Iron Guard led by M. Codreanu. To the struggle for power between them and the King was added a vital difference on foreign policy, the King desiring to remain independent of Germany, the Iron Guard to enter her orbit. The Iron Guard was suppressed, but reappeared as the "All for Fatherland" party. A revolt was prevented by the arrest of Codreanu and 1,000 of his followers in April 1938. On September 21, 1939, the Patriarch's successor, M. Calinescu, who was in favour of a pro-Allied policy, was murdered in the streets of Bucharest, and shortly afterwards Codreanu and

a number of other Iron Guard leaders were shot "while attempting to escape from gaol." Codreanu was in close touch with the Nazis, and in the series of murders just perpetrated the hand of the Gestapo can be clearly seen. General Argesianu and M. Marinesco were Premier and Minister of Home Security respectively at the time of Codreanu's death.

The present Government is really a coalition of the Army, which supported King Carol and now supports his son, and the Iron Guard. General Antonescu represents the former, M. Sima the latter. It would appear that the Nazis are behind the extreme wing of the Iron Guard whom M. Sima is, therefore, unable to control, and who would like to get rid of General Antonescu. The situation recalls Nazi activities in Austria which led to the murder of Dollfus in 1934.

Rumania is now a vast training ground for Nazi troops and the young King and his Prime Minister who are now mere automations, have to witness the exercises of the Army.

—AND THE OTHER

Greece, on the other hand, though unprepared to meet a bully many times stronger than herself, has not only flung the invader from her soil, but has been driving him into the interior of Albania. The Greeks are a tough and resourceful people full of heroism and resolution. In this work she has been greatly aided by the air and naval assistance afforded by Great Britain.

New heights have been captured in the Pogradetz sector and many prisoners, guns and other equipment have been taken. The capture of two heights dominating Pogradetz means that that place will be captured by the Greeks in a few days. Premeti has been taken as well as Santi Quaranta, while Argyrokastro has been evacuated. Italy has issued mobilization orders, ordering several hundred thousands of youngmen to come to the colours, but the Greeks are not idle and they have strengthened their positions.

Though Italians have been forced to surrender place after place it is prudent not to be too optimistic. She may yet throw fresh divisions into the struggle and German divisions may rush to the help of the weaker Axis partner. The Greek High Command is carefully refraining from exaggerating Greek success. It is prepared for bigger and fiercer battles, and in this it will have all the help that Great Britain is able to render.

THE DIPLOMATIC SITUATION.

The diplomatic situation in several countries in Europe and the Far East is still far from clear, but there are many bright spots. The following points may be noted :—

(1) The trouble in Tangier following the savage attack by Italians on British property is not satisfactory. Assurances have been obtained. But Great Britain and Spain have entered into a financial agreement of considerable importance.

(2) Marshal Petain has refused German assistance to safeguard her African colonies because that might lead to a war with Great Britain. The same Government have, so far, been resisting German pressure to give up the French fleet and allow naval bases in the Mediterranean. But, now that the French Government have moved to Verseilles, German pressure on the French Government is bound to increase, especially when M. Laval is there to help his German masters.

(3) Bulgaria has, through her Prime Minister, declared her resolution to remain neutral and safeguard her integrity and independence. This is attributable to the Greek success and Russian influence.

(4) Yugoslavia has also declared her neutrality again and made it quite clear that she would maintain her integrity and sovereignty.

(5) Hungary has not yet given up her attempt to persuade Yugoslavia to walk into Germany's parlour.

(6) The conclusion of a financial agreement between Great Britain and Turkey after protracted negotiations is an event of far-reaching importance. It is also of great political significance. So far Turkey has been exporting 50 per cent of her agricultûral produce to Germany and only 10 per cent to Great Britain. The new agreement will necessarily mean a radical alteration in this proportion and to that extent German diplomatic influence in Turkey will be reduced.

(7) America has decided to give a big loan to China. Both Great Britain and America have refused to recognize the puppet regime of Wang Ching Wei and, for a wonder, Germany still recognizes the Chungking regime as the lawful one in China. This declaration on the part of the principal Axis Power has naturally been received in Tokyo with stupefaction. Russia's help to China continues in abundance, and the Soviet Ambassador in Tokyo has told the Japanese Government that Soviet policy towards China is unchanged. All these factors, Italy's failure in Greece, and Britain's determination to hold Singapore strongly, have put a check to Japan's threat to drive west and south.

(8) Mr. Woolton, Minister for Economic Security, stated the other day that Germany will soon find that there is a shortage of oil so necessary for her purpose. There is need for helping Italy with oil and Italy does not produce any oil herself. Italy boasts that she can secure oil from Albania and Rumania. The British Navy is there to prevent Albanian oil from reaching Italy and oil lines in Albania are being threatened by R.A.F. and Greek planes. Bari, the Italian town where oil is stored, is R.A.F.'s target number one. There are transport problems preventing export of Rumanian oil in large quantities to Italy and Germany. Mr. Wooltan also said that there was no use bombing Rumanian oil wells because crude oil was not very inflammable ; that is why Great Britain waits for Germany to spend time and energy in refining that oil and storing it in her dumps when the R.A.F. will be told off for duty to those places.

OIL AND STRATEGY

BEARING OF RESOURCES ON THE WAR.

In the course of an article on oil in *World Review*, Mr. Robert Byron writes :—

By working out the number of gallons of petrol, fuel oil and lubricants per mile per hour consumed by the different kinds of aeroplanes, ships, tanks and tractors, by estimating the number of these units that would be employed and by postulating the distances they must cover in the course of a sustained offensive per month or year, the prophets of mutual attrition reached the comfortable conclusion that the war machines of both sides must ultimately break down of their own accord, simply because the world's oil resources would be insufficient to keep them going.

I do not propose here to enter the field of strategic prophecy on the basis of the present situation. The aim of this article is rather to present the situation as it is . . . After eleven months of war American stocks are piling up so fast that prices are threatened and the cry for an effective method of regulating production according to demand is becoming more insistent than ever.

The American Surplus

The United States produces about sixty per cent of the whole world's annual supply of oil. The experience of by far the largest producing country therefore goes to show that the war, far from having put a strain on the world's oil supplies, has so decreased consumption as to create what is from the industry's point of view an embarrassing superfluity. From this it does not necessarily follow that such a decrease will continue indefinitely. But it is safe to assume that none of the existing war machines will suffer any immediate diminution of activity on account of a general drying up of the world's oil supplies.

If any of them are immobilised or hampered for lack of oil, it will be for quite other reasons, such as blockade, the difficulties of transport and the absence of those refining facilities which are necessary for the production of certain essential grades of oil connected with aviation and lubrication.

British Blockade

The causes of the present surplus of oil in the United States are not far to seek. Apart from the tendency to over-production inherent in the Law of Capture, which governs production in the States, the American oil interests have suddenly lost almost the whole of their European markets with the exception of Britain; and even Britain, it may be supposed, is buying as much oil as she can elsewhere in order to conserve dollar exchange. Nor are the United States alone in this respect; other oil-producing countries, such as Iraq and the Dutch East Indies, have also been cut off from the main European demand, and in them also stocks are presumably piling up and production is threatened with curtailment lest it should exceed the available storage room.

As far what will happen in the German-controlled part of Europe, which includes the most highly motorised countries on the Continent and which is now to all intents and purposes cut off from any further oil imports, nothing more can be said than that it remains to be seen whether modern industrialised communities can revert to the conditions of fifty years ago and survive.

How Much Can Germany Produce?

The biggest producing countries after the United States are Russia and Venezuela, each being responsible for rather over ten per cent of the 280 million odd metric tons which comprise the world's total annual output. Thus these two, with America, account for eighty per cent. Countries contributing more than five million tons to the remaining twenty per cent are Iran, the Dutch East Indies, Rumania, Mexico and Iraq. The British Empire, from Trinidad, India and Burma, Bahrein, Borneo and Canada, was producing before the war about seven million tons a year, a figure which is probably now showing rapid increase. On a generous estimate Germany, including Austria, Czechoslovakia and Western Poland, may soon be able to provide some four million tons a year, partly from local wells, but mainly from her much-advertised oil-from-coal plants.

For those who feel they can relate war-time to peace-time consumption, a few indications of the latter may be welcome. Before the war consumption in Greater Germany was rather under six million tons a year; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, about twelve million tons. Italy, France, Norway, Denmark, Holland, and Belgium needed an aggregate of something like ten million tons, excluding bunkers, to keep them going in peace time.

The Enemy's Transport Problems

Bearing in mind the circumstances of the British blockade, it appears theoretically that Britain can still draw on the whole American continent for supplies (her largest single supplier before the war was Venezuela), and also if necessary on Iran and the Dutch East Indies via the Cape. Germany, with her allies and subsidiaries, must rely partly on domestic production—Italy too has a few oil-from-coal plants—partly on supplies from Rumania and Russia, and to a lesser extent, perhaps, on clandestine imports through Spain.

But governing these suppositions is the transport factor. Britain has tankers, Germany and Italy for all practical purposes

have not. Can Britain keep her ports open and the access to them safe? Can Germany and Italy find means of transporting oil overland? As regards Axis supplies, it must be pointed out that Russia, formerly a large exporter, now needs almost all the oil she produces, and that, thanks to the progressive mechanisation of Russian agriculture, her basic food supplies have become very largely dependent on the oil extracted from the Caucasus fields.

The German quota for Rumanian oil was fixed at the end of last year at one and a half million tons a year. Rumania produces altogether between six and seven million tons annually, and it has been conjectured that the reason why the German quota was not larger, considering the pressure that Germany was in a position to put on Rumania, was that the transport of any greater quantity would have been impossible owing to the paucity of the German railways from the east, the shortage of tank wagons, the limited number of tank barges available on the Danube and the congestion at the Iron Gates.

If Hitler Goes East—

Whatever the truth of this conjecture, it should be remembered that Rumanian oil *in situ* could still be useful to Germany for the conduct of a campaign in the east, just as Iraqi oil, fed across the desert to Haifa, though no longer by the other branch of the pipeline to Tripoli in Syria, is useful to British ships and soldiers in the eastern Mediterranean. But even if the object of a German drive to the east was to seize the Mosul and Persian fields, and even if this object was attained, the problem of transporting oil in large quantities to Germany proper and the countries under her domination would still have to be solved, so long as Britain and Britain's Fleet control the access to the Atlantic coast of the continent.

Such in broad outline are the raw materials for the elaboration of prophecies about oil and strategy at the present moment. There is oil and to spare for those who can get it. The questions to be determined are first, by what means and in what degree the belligerents are capable of profiting from this abundance; and secondly, what field of operations, geographical, military, and economic, they will choose in which to make the best use of such oil as they can get.

What Are 'Reserves'?

But suppose that as months pass and perhaps years, the war spreads, that the whole world is engulfed, that all the major powers are eventually engaged in the struggle, and that each side from one source or another gains access to supplies not yet foreseen; suppose in fact that the whole energies of the human race are diverted to the enlargement, maintenance and operation of two opposing war machines, and that those war machines and the economies behind them can draw to the limit on all existing fields—what then?

Will the oil dry up, and either stalemate result or victory remain with the side whose oil dries up last? Or is it to be supposed that the earth's oil content is for all calculable purposes inexhaustible, and that in such a case the peoples must fight it out till the machines themselves are exhausted? Here again there is no room for prophecy in terms of actual figures. But it may be of some interest for those who wish to speculate on the distant future to examine in cursory fashion the general question of the world's oil reserves.

There has been much confusion about the use of the word reserves in connexion with oil. In ordinary parlance the word connotes the amount of any commodity not yet used but waiting to be drawn on as occasion arises. By the oil industry, however, it is employed in a different sense.

Figures of proved reserves in the United States, for example, indicate not how much oil remains under the surface of the United States to be exploited, but the amount which the oil industry at a given moment has ascertained to be worth commercial exploitation in fields which have already been explored and tested.

To talk of oil reserves in this technical sense is to talk of what in any other business would be called the working stock of the business, which in this case it is cheaper to keep stored underground than in tanks above ground. Thus it cannot be emphasised too often that figures of proved reserves, as they are published from time to time in the United States and elsewhere, have no reference and bear no relation to the quantity of oil which still remains in the earth and still awaits discovery.

Prospecting

Oil exists, not in underground lakes or rivers, as many people imagine, but in rock; it saturates the rock like a sponge and must be expelled by pressure, which may be natural or artificial. Theoretically, therefore, oil may be found wherever there are sedimentary rocks, and there is yet no evidence to show that it may not also be found at any depth to which the ingenuity of modern engineers can penetrate. Thus it can be said that all sedimentary strata at all depths and in all countries and climates and even under the sea offer the hope of oil.

Considering that exploration must cover not only area but volume, it is plain that so far only a very small proportion of the world's potential oil-bearing crust has been examined. Moreover, the technique of exploration, which at first was confined to little more than luck or instinct, has developed so rapidly in the last twenty years that areas such as the new Illinois field in the United States, which were once abandoned as unproductive, are now, thanks to modern invention, proving the source of a vast outflow.

When Politics Interferes

Another fact to be taken into consideration is that at present from fifty to eighty per cent of the oil known to exist under a particular area is left in the rock, because commercially it is not worth applying sufficient pressure to expel it. By the law of averages, therefore, and in view of the immense reserves of unexploited oil that still remain in every field after it has been commercially 'worked out', the possibility of the world's oil supplies becoming exhausted in any foreseeable period cannot be regarded as a feasible one. The probability is rather that those supplies have so far only just been tapped.

But if this is a fair view of the case, as I believe it to be, it may reasonably be asked why, considering the acute public interest in the question, exploration has not been conducted on a sufficient scale to discover roughly what resources the world can count on for the next two or three hundred years.

The answer is that exploration is a laborious, lengthy and extremely expensive process; to give only one instance, it is said that before the new Poza Rica field in Mexico, whose riches were the immediate cause of the Mexican Government's expropriation of the British and American oil properties, was brought into production, four million pounds had been spent on testing and prospecting. When such sums are involved, it is inevitable that the rate of exploration should be determined entirely by the state of the market and the forecasts of future demand, in exactly the same way as the rate of manufacture of an object such as a motor-car or a tea-pot is determined. No business, and indeed no government, can afford the cost of protracted exploration simply out of curiosity.

The oil industry balances the volume of proved reserves against probable demand and seeks to keep the reserves at between ten and fifteen years' demand. As proved reserves show signs of falling below that level, further exploration is undertaken. But it must be remembered that exploration, owing to the investment involved, is only possible under conditions of political stability and under laws which allow reasonable freedom of action in the exploitation of the oil, once it has been found.

Negative Conclusion

In countries where production has fallen off during the past ten or twenty years, the cause of the decline may be due to the exhaustion of the existing fields and to the impossibility of discovering any others. But in the more spectacular cases, such as Mexico and Rumania, the cause has in fact been, not that there is no more oil to be found, but that local political conditions have made further exploration unprofitable.

The above conclusions make it plain that the question of the world's oil resources has only a negative bearing on the present war. The war may be brought to an end because one side manœuvres the other into a shortage of oil. But it will not be brought to an end on account of any general shortage. However long it continues, and however many countries it involves, the oil will be there for those who can get it.

Strategically, therefore, the best we can do is to see that the enemy gets as little oil as possible, while preventing him from interrupting our own means of supply.

MUSSOLINI'S "MIRROR OF TRUTH"

Mussolini asserted on November 18 that Italy's official war bulletins were "perfect mirrors of truth", and then added that he wrote them himself. This latter fact no doubt explains why the Italian version of what happened in the following specific instances (selected at random) differs so wildly from the real truth.

It will be noticed that though Italy entered the war some time after Germany, she has little to learn from her senior partner about the gentle art of lying. But perhaps, after all, it was Goebbels who learnt his trade from Mussolini in the first place—for some years ago, speaking of the disastrous engagement of Caporetto in the last war, the Duce said: "If I had been Prime Minister at the time, I should have announced Caporetto as a great victory!"

WHAT MUSSOLINI SAID:

Mediterranean engagement, Oct, 12/13.

Rome claimed two British cruisers sunk, with one battleship, one cruiser and four destroyers badly damaged; admitted loss of two Italian torpedo boats and a destroyer.

Red Sea engagement, Oct, 20/21.

Rome claimed six British merchantmen, sunk in convoy, and a cruiser "of the *Sidney* class" put out of action.

British re-capture of Gallabat, Nov. 10.

Rome still claims that the Italian forces are in possession of Gallabat, which is being "constantly attacked" by the British.

Attack on Taranto, Nov. 11/12.

Rome claimed only one Italian unit hit, and six British aircraft destroyed.

Western Desert air fight, Nov. 20.

Rome claimed six British Gloucester fighters brought down for no Italian losses.

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED:

Three Italian destroyers were sunk and four aircraft destroyed; sole British craft damaged was cruiser *Liverpool*, hit by aerial torpedo, but brought safely to port.

Italian destroyer *Francesco Nullo* was beached and blown up by the British destroyer *Kimberley;* no British vessels were sunk, and three naval ratings hurt by shell-splinter were the sole casualties.

British and Indian troops finally re-entered Gallabat on November 10, and are now investing Matemma—which is some miles to the east of the former post.

Three Italian battleships were put out of action, with two cruisers; two fleet auxiliaries were sunk. Two British planes were lost.

Fifteen British fighters attacked 60 Italian bombers and fighters; 10 Italian fighters were brought down with no British losses.

"I endlessly admire those who make out of creative work a law of life", says Mussolini in his *Autobiography*. No doubt he regards his bulletin-writing as part of this "creative work"—since, as Italian victories do not exist, it becomes necessary to create them.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

German piracy

The German radio on November 19 reported the allegation of an un-named Frenchman, recently returned from London, that Britain's food supplies "had been seriously affected by the destruction of docks and by fires".

In their anxiety to make the world believe that the British are as hungry as themselves, the Nazis forget to mention that Lord Woolton, the Food Controller of Britain, is planning a Christmas present in the shops of *increased* allowances of tea and sugar for some weeks.

—and British blockade

Admitting that the British blockade had seriously affected Germany's trade with Brazil —her Brazilean imports were worth £9,000,000 a year before the war—the Nazi radio, on November 21, quoted a Brazilean newspaper as saying :—

"Our orange crop is destroyed, our maize is rotting in the storehouses, coffee is again passing through a crisis and we do not know what to do with superfluous cotton and cocoa. Something practical should be done by Great Britain to lighten our burden."

Something practical is being done. Lord Willingdon's Economic Mission had arrived in South America and Britain will no doubt replace Germany as Brazil's chief customer.

In the same news bulletin, the Nazis reported that "well-informed speculators are investing their money in British companies working in Brazil".

The Germans say that the British are experiencing great difficulty in getting neutral ships to carry goods to Britain. The reason is simple: owing to German piracy, there are now hardly any neutral nations left with large merchant fleets. The mercantile fleets of Denmark (1,130,000 tons) Greece (1,900,000 tons) Holland (2,850,000 tons) Norway (4,600,000 tons) are now Allied fleets. The German and Italian fleets have been swept from the Ocean. The American fleet (9,000,000 tons) has not been allowed in belligerent waters since the outbreak of war. A quarter of the French fleet (700,000 tons) is with Britain, and the rest in harbour. The only fleets of any size left are the Swedish (1,500,000 tons) which has to carry Germany's goods in the Baltic, the Spanish, which has less than a million tons of shipping and the Japanese (5,000,000 tons) whose ships are busy in the Far East.

Coventry Gloatings

The Germans on November 19 claimed that explosions were still taking place in Coventry on November 17, that the gas, electricity and water services were out of action and thousands of people were homeless, and that the raid was the heaviest ever undertaken by the *Luftwaffe*. "Stralegicus", the well-known correspondent, who has visited Coventry (and knows London), wrote on November 23: "As regards the munition and arms output, the enemy has done no appreciable damage. If I were allowed to quote figures, everyone would be astonished to discover how steadily and strongly the output has increased".

The German view of their own work is given by General Kabishch, who recently stated that the *Luftwaffe* alone could not win the war. "This warning," he said, "becomes necessary as the German people indulge in the optimistic hope that the war can be won by the air force. The fact remains that the only way of winning is by getting troops to England".

Realizing that an admission that the King-Emperor in person read his Speech in the Parliament on November 21 would go ill with their previous stories of the destruction of London, the Nazis say that the Lord Chancellor read the Speech from the Throne. As a matter of fact, His Majesty, who drove through the streets of London with the Queen, personally opened Parliament and read his own speech according to custom. The Duke of Kent and the Duke of Gloucester were also present in the House of Lords.

Even now the Axis clings to the belief that it is possible to fool the friends of freedom by fair promises, and at the same time to encourage its followers by confident boasts. On November 24, a German speaker in an English talk bewails British obstinacy in refusing "compromise" and "reconciliation" with Germany both before and after the Polish campaign. Germany was only too anxious for "compromise" and "reconciliation", he said. On November 20, the Italian Radio announced that the Axis was "directed against

and towards the crushing of British dominance, as stated in the speech of the Duce". In this matter, it adds, there is between Germany and Italy " a perfect understanding".

That mirror again

Mussolini in his speech of November 18 spoke of " Italian successes in Somaliland, the Sudan and Egypt". In Egypt another fullmoon has passed without a move, although the Italians announced that they were ready to advance at the beginning of November. In the Sudan the Italians are being harassed at Kassala. They lost Gallabat on November 6, announced its recovery on November 8, but forgot to mention its loss on the following day. Mussolini could not mention Greece because the Italians were already out of it. " The mountains of Epirus and their muddy valley's do not lend themselves to lightning warfare", said he. **But they do not prevent the Greeks from advancing.**

The Italians quote an alleged appeal by the Greek Propaganda Minister asking for immediate British reinforcements to their hard-pressed Air Force and suggest that they will not receive them.

In the seven days from November 13-19, the Royal Air Force bombed Argyrokastro twice, Durazzo, Valona, Elbasan, troop concentrations near Koritza in Albania, and Taranto, Brindisi, and Bari in Italy. The latest communique from Cairo reports raids on hangars at Tirana, the Albanian capital, and on wharves at Durazzo. British fighter planes were first reported over Greece on November 13. On November 21 in their first major engagement with the Italians, the Royal Air Force brought down 9 Italian planes and severely damaged two more.

According to Plan

November 20—

German radio: " Successes S.E. of Koritza reported by the Italians".

Italian communique: " Strong and repeated attacks " on Koritza " were repulsed everywhere with severe loss."

November 21—

Italian communique: " Repeated Greek attacks broke down in the Koritza area."

November 22—

No Italian communique published. The Italian radio discovers that " the Greek people really hate England." *Noon.*

Greek flag hoisted on the town hall of Koritza.

November 23—

Italian communique: Two Italian divisions " which occupied defensive positions at Koritza have retreated to positions west of the town after 11 days."

German radio: " Italian troops occupied *their new positions according to plan.*"

November 24—

Pogradetz, Moscopolis and Konispole occupied the Greeks.

Italian communiqué: " Greek efforts to hamper the movements of the Italian troops were frustrated."

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Without Comment

From Italian broadcast in Arabic, November 21 :—

"The British radio at Cairo has announced that the Italian planes bomb Egyptian towns. This is groundless. . . . Italy is fighting against Britain for the freedom of Egypt. **Italy has not bombed any Egyptian town".**

From Turkish broadcast in Arabic, November 20 :—

"The Egyptian Home Ministry has announced that 41 civilians were killed and 70 wounded as the result of an Italian air raid on Alexandria on the night of November 17/18. A number of residential houses were damaged and a mosque was destroyed. King Farooq has donated 500 Egyptian pounds for the relief of air raid victims".

From Italian broadcast in Arabic, November 20 :—

" It is only hypocrisy on the part of the British to express sympathy with the Egyptians **on a few casualties as the result of Italians air raids on Alexandria."**

—and one from Germany.

From Berlin broadcast in English, November 18, 5-30 p.m. :—

" The success of the German submarine and Air Force attacks on British convoys is borne out by a neutral traveller just arrived in Lisbon. This traveller sailed from England in a small cargo boat. He says that the journey which normally took five days took him ten days."

Exactly three hours later Berlin stated in Hindustani :—

" The statement given by a traveller who has reached Lisbon from Britain on board a small merchant ship manifests what havoc has been caused to British convoys by German planes and U-boats. The traveller says that the journey from Cardiff to Lisbon took him twenty days."

The geometrical progression in the number of days taken by the alleged traveller in his alleged journey is typical of all figures given by the German radio.

A Favourite Trick.

On the same day the Italians stated in their broadcast in Arabic that Indian nationalists had forced their way into a "war factory" in Sindh and had been fired upon by the police. As a matter of fact, no such episode has taken place in Sindh—or anywhere else in India. That the Italians deliberately concocted this story is proved by the fact that **they said nothing about it in Hindustani.**

This is one of their favourite tricks. On October 23 the Italians speaking in Hindustani reported anti-British demonstrations in Egypt on the occasion of Mr. Eden's visit but **said nothing on the subject in Arabic.** On a previous occasion they reported in Arabic an imaginary clash in Bombay between Indian and British soldiers, but **said nothing about it in Hindustani.**

A Trap.

Both the Italians and the Germans say in their Persian and Arabic broadcasts (November 23 and November 25) that the Germans and Italians will not interfere with any ship carrying pilgrims to the Hedjaz, provided the companies notify Germany and Italy of the dates of sailings and the route, and provided the companies "undertake not to indulge in any sort of political or military activity." Most companies, knowing as they do, the fate of previous Axis promises, would hesitate to invite disaster by divulging the route and date of sailings of their ships.

They would recall that Mussolini promised not *to* bomb the Arabs during Ramzan, and then promptly bombed them in Egypt, Palestine, Hadramaut, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

The clause about not indulging in any political or military activity is an obvious snare for, after bombing a ship, the plea could be easily made that the undertaking to refrain from political or military activity was not kept.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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